

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 24 and extending to page 6, line 8, to read as follows:

In more detail, referring to Figs. 3, 4, and 5, the flexible shower arm 34 is made up of a plurality of ball and socket beads 46 which are interconnected for rotational and pivotal movement between adjacent beads. The beads are preferably made of a thermoplastic material, such as Teflon impregnated acetal. Each bead 46 has a smaller end 54 and a larger end 56, with a tapered neck 58 area defined between the two ends. The cavity 48 formed through the bead 46 defines an opening 60 at the smaller end 54 of the bead 46 and an opening at the larger end 56 of the bead. The external surface at the smaller end 54 of the bead 46 is substantially spherical in shape. The internal walls 62 of the cavity 48 formed at the larger end 56 of the bead 46 have a substantially spherical shape for rotatably and pivotally receiving the smaller end 54 of the adjacent bead 46. The beads 46 are interconnected with one another by inserting the smaller end 54 of a first bead into the cavity 48 in the larger end 56 of the adjacent bead and so on, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The engagement of the external walls of the smaller end 54 of one bead with the internal walls 62 of the larger end 56 of an adjacent bead 46 allows the plurality of beads to pivot and rotate with respect to adjacent beads to form a variety of shapes. As shown to best effect in Fig. 4, each bead generally includes an internal stop 49 defined in the cavity 48. The internal stop 49 is annular in shape, and cooperates with the internal sidewall of the cavity to form an abutment cavity 53. When adjacent beads 46 are sufficiently axially misaligned, a stop abutment element 51 is received in the abutment cavity 53 and impacts the internal stop 49. The internal stop 49 prevents the adjacent beads 46 from axially misaligning beyond the point where the stop abutment element 51 impacts the internal stop 49.